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Ag84Pro
no.
1542

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

International Cooperation and Development: Serving U.S. Agriculture and Fostering Worldwide Economic Growth



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



National Agricultural Library

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The mission of the International Cooperation and Development (ICD) area of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service is to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture and preserve natural resource systems, while pursuing sustainable economic development worldwide by mobilizing the resources of USDA and its affiliates.

ICD is the strategic center within USDA responsible for coordinating, supporting, and delivering a diversified program of international cooperation and development.

ICD programs heighten U.S. agriculture's competitiveness by providing links to world resources and by building a spirit of cooperation and goodwill that serves U.S. agriculture well. Through these linkages, the U.S. agricultural sector gains access to emerging technologies and a wider array of genetic material, which can be crucial to creating new — and improving existing — agricultural products, practices, and markets. These international partnerships are the germinating seeds that can produce a rich and diverse harvest of scientific advances and business ventures.

ICD helps increase income and food availability in developing nations by linking the technical expertise of the U.S. agricultural community with those nations. This cooperative effort helps developing nations surmount the barriers of hunger and poverty and build more stable economies.

As industrialized nations have become saturated with goods and services, investors have begun to explore developing nations as markets for fresh and expanded business ventures. Nations moving from low- to middle-income status now offer the brightest prospects for U.S. agricultural products, a trend that is likely to continue. So it is in the best interests of the United States to foster economic growth, strong diplomatic ties, and durable trade relationships in these nations.

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Short-term visits between U.S. and foreign scientists promote the transfer of agricultural data, genetic and biological material, and technology. This exchange of information, materials, and techniques is invaluable to the improvement of crops, forestry products, and livestock on a global scale. All major U.S. crops — representing about 90 percent of total U.S. crop value — originated outside the United States. American agriculture must have access to the world's astounding genetic diversity to remain competitive.

Proposals are accepted from U.S. scientists for exchanges with any country where benefits to U.S. agriculture may accrue. Recent projects of mutual benefit include:

- Improved methods for detecting the pine shoot beetle, a serious pest of coniferous trees,
- Cooperative initiatives with the republics of the former Soviet Union, and
- Introduction of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices to Central and East European countries.

Through long-term projects, U.S. and foreign scientists work to solve high-priority agricultural problems. Examples of successful research projects include:

- Cooperative research on citrus canker and the Mediterranean fruit fly,
- A program with Ireland that has produced advances in combating tick-borne diseases, bovine tuberculosis, and other illnesses that can be transmitted from animals to humans, and
- Collaboration among the United States, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians to accelerate agricultural development in participating Middle Eastern nations through improving horticultural crops and controlling livestock diseases.

For more information, contact ICD's Research and Scientific Exchange Division:

(202) 690 - 4872 (phone)

(202) 690 - 0892 (fax)

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ICD's technical assistance program is designed to increase incomes and food consumption in developing countries, mitigate famine and disasters, and help maintain or enhance the natural resource base. ICD-managed projects are sponsored by such international donor institutions as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the regional development banks, the United Nations, and private organizations.

In carrying out its program, ICD works with USDA's technical and program agencies, with U.S. universities, and with private sector entities. Activities emphasize government-to-government institution building and cover the full range of USDA's program mandate, including:

- Food processing and distribution,
- Agricultural technology development and transfer,
- Food health and safety inspection and regulation,
- Plant and animal protection and quarantine,
- Soil and water conservation,
- Forest management, and
- Agricultural statistics and economic analysis.

*For more information, contact ICD's Development Resources Division:
(202) 690 - 1924 (phone)
(202) 690 - 0847 (fax)*

ICD's Natural Resource and Environment Branch provides a complete range of natural resource management and environmental technical assistance to organizations and institutions in developing and developed countries.

Examples of this type of assistance include needs assessments, project design and development, monitoring and impact assessment, and human resource development.

In addition, this branch has access to one of the world's largest, most experienced pools of natural resource and environmental expertise in the following areas: soil science, forestry, watershed management, integrated pest management, livestock and range management, irrigation and drainage, global climate change, biodiversity, ecology, and environmental impact assistance.

For more information, contact ICD's Development Resources Division:
(202) 690 - 1924 (phone)
(202) 690 - 0847 (fax)

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ICD manages a disaster assistance program and famine mitigation activities in collaboration with the U.S. Agency for International Development's (U.S. AID) Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. The Forest Service is the key USDA technical resource for the disaster assistance program, the goals of which are to alleviate human suffering resulting from natural and human-caused disasters and to protect natural resources. The program prepares people to respond to natural disasters such as drought, forest fires, floods, landslides, and earthquakes.

The famine mitigation activities involve a broad spectrum of USDA, university, and private sector resources to assist U.S. AID missions in developing strategies to alleviate the onset of food insecurity situations. Areas of technical assistance include: rapid assessment and early warning; seeds and tools; water resource development; market invention; and nutritional monitoring.

*For more information, contact ICD's Development Resources Division:
(202) 690 - 1924 (phone)
(202) 690 - 0847 (fax)*

ICD designs and manages a wide array of training and educational programs for international participants in agriculture, agribusiness, rural development, and related fields. In cooperation with other USDA agencies, the land-grant university system, private firms, and other institutions, the program offers quality training and support services to developing and more advanced nations.

Through ICD, foreign agriculturalists can obtain the expertise they need to foster economic development in their countries. Training programs include professional development programs, in which agricultural professionals from developing and middle-income countries gain exposure to U.S. expertise, goods, and services to promote broad-based development mutually beneficial to continued scientific, professional, and trade relationships.

For more information, contact ICD's Food Industries Division:
(202) 690 - 1339 (phone)
(202) 690 - 3982 or 690 - 0349 (fax)



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ICD advances and protects U.S. agricultural interests by keeping U.S. policy views before the international community through organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

One way ICD accomplishes this task is by assisting the Secretary of Agriculture and others in maintaining close liaison with these organizations. Doing so keeps U.S. agricultural interests in the forefront of discussions as international organizations develop programs and policies that can affect U.S. agriculture.

For more information, contact ICD's International Organization Affairs Division:

(202) 690 - 1823 (phone)

(202) 690 - 1841 (fax)

ICD promotes a vital, healthy private agricultural sector at home and abroad by organizing marketing workshops, in-country technical team visits, and agribusiness opportunity missions that link U.S. and foreign entrepreneurs and help them expand business and trade opportunities.

The program helps U.S. and foreign agricultural businesses develop mutually beneficial trade and investment relationships. ICD conducts trade and investment activities worldwide.

For more information, contact ICD's Food Industries Division:

(202) 690 - 1339 (phone)

(202) 690 - 3982 or 690 - 0349 (fax)



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The Agribusiness Information Center provides the in-depth information that investors and exporters at home and abroad need. The center provides data on:

- Import and export regulations,
- Commodity grades and standards, and
- Financing.

This information can mean the difference between success and failure for a business venture.

For more information, contact ICD's Food Industries Division:

(202) 690 - 2981 (phone)

(202) 690 - 3982 or 690 - 0349 (fax)

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ICD provides up-to-date training and technical assistance for international agricultural professionals and organizations from lower- and middle-income nations and newly emerging democracies in order to promote and enhance sustainable agricultural development throughout the world. ICD collaborates with USDA and other government agencies, land-grant universities, and the private sector to conduct state-of-the-art activities and to assure that all training activity is relevant and appropriate to home country situations.

Types of training activities include:

- Agricultural and natural resource technical and management courses held in the Washington, DC, area and at land-grant universities within the United States,
- In-country courses and custom-tailored training activities,
- Overseas regional training,
- Needs assessment analyses,
- Development of long-term training plans,
- Strategic planning,
- Designing and facilitating workshops and retreats,
- Study tours, and
- Targeted group training in the United States.

For more information, contact ICD's Development Resources Division:

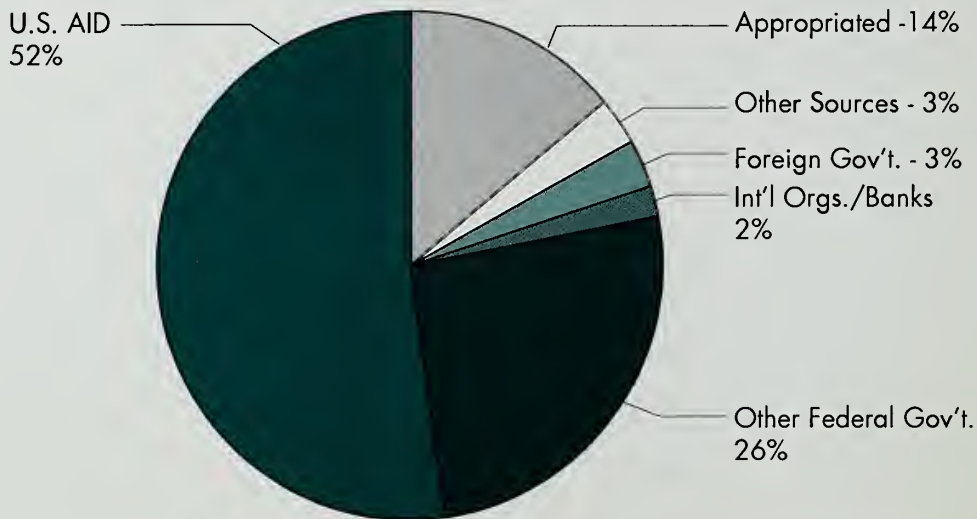
(202) 690 - 1924 (phone)

(202) 690 - 0847 (fax)

While some ICD programs are financed by Congressional appropriations, most ICD activities are funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, development banks, and other governments and organizations around the world.

FAS/ICD Funding By Source

FY 1994



For more information, contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
International Cooperation and Development
Rm. 3008, South Building
14th and Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-4300

Visit FAS/ICD offices while in Washington, DC, by using the Smithsonian Metro Station, Independence Ave. exit.

Program Aid No. 1542

May 1995

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